



NORTHAMPTON ENERGY AND SUSTAINABILITY COMMISSION

APPROVED MINUTES

January 09, 2020

City Council Chambers

212 Main Street, Northampton, MA 01060

4:00 PM – 5:30 PM

Attendees: Alex Jarrett, Ashley Muspratt, Tim Smith, Gordon Meadows, Rachel Maiore, Louis Hasbrouck, Ben Weil, Wayne Feiden, Chris Mason

Facilitator: Wayne Feiden

Scribe: Douglas Renick

Public Comment:

Lilly Lombard talked about the importance of the urban forest to sustainability. She offered congratulations to new Commission members.

Sharon Moulton reported a short notice of a carbon pollution pricing bill hearing next Tuesday, January 14, Room A2. The bill may not get even a committee vote if the chair has his way. She was asking Commission if they know anyone on the Telecommunications Utility Energy committee that they could contact and advocate for the bill.

Review/approve minutes of 12/12/19: Ashley Muspratt moved to approve the minutes and Gordon Meadows seconded the motion, which passed with 2 abstentions by new members who had not been present at the 12/12/19 meeting.

Discussion of future meeting times and duration:

- Longer but not more meetings.
- Longer or more meetings ok. Having more meetings will be more difficult. Extend the meeting by an hour.
- Extend the length. Work between meetings.
- Spelling out of the agenda, yes. Also, an outcome agenda...we will decide "x."
- Agendas out early.
- Leave a meeting knowing what each member will be doing before the next meeting.
- There are no limits to work in small groups, but the small groups cannot deliberate.
- As always, commissioners may contact the commission staff or chair and suggest agenda items.
- A homework assignment that can be sent out to everyone. Homework discussed at the end of meetings. Historically, commissioners have not taken on homework. We are a deliberative body. Individuals can do research. The Commission deliberates on the research in the public meeting.
- Open meeting law: individuals can do research. Two members have to obey the open meeting law to enter into deliberation. Commission members can meet for coffee or beer.
- Summary: start with an extra ½ hour per meeting. Start earlier at 3:30 or stay later to 6:00? Doodle poll? Doodle poll for Tuesdays and Thursdays.

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Ex-officio, non voting: Chris Mason



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- Suggestion: an extra hour would be better than ½ hour. Response: we need to schedule what works for most people. The Doodle poll will give us data. Chris will do the poll.

Decision points for Climate Resilience and Regeneration Plan:

- CRRP Outline and Decision Point chart shared (attached at end of minutes)
- The italics on left side of the chart are new.
- The scope on the right has been added. Scope 1=in your community. 2=electric or gas grid when we use them it causes emissions somewhere else. 3=things that happen all over the world that affect us. Some communities skip Scope 3 because there is little if any control over those factors.
- Suggestion: Fugitive Emissions: add a Scope 1 as well as 2 and 3.
- The goal is to get a consensus on where we want to go.
- Vision:
 - Setting dates is where consensus falls apart. In many areas we don't have data. Vision can have dates, if we can reach consensus.
 - Energy production and storage will become an issue and needs to be addressed. Don't close off thermal.
 - Targets
- Pathways to action:
 - Legislative and administrative lobbying.
 - Under financing: a municipal thermal utility, a geo thermal district with a common geo thermal distributor.
 - There is a financial part of every pathway. There is accounting that needs to be done during planning.
 - Creating new financial pathways with local banks. How can they help people install new systems so they can pay back their systems? There are financing methods out there already, e.g., Mass Save HEAT Loan.
 - Move last three items in Pathways to Cross-cutting. Move financing to Cross-cutting
 - Work with utilities.
- Pathways to resilience:
 - How do we know when we have achieved what we want? Use projections.
 - Make assignments for categories.
 - Where does light pollution come in the Pathways? Regeneration is about climate.
 - Scope 1 – a. city operations b. other.
- Cross-cutting...
- Implementation process:
 - Who owns the responsibility?

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- Targets: we'll come back to that later
 - Required legislative action. Required Mayoral action.

Presentation on the City's Urban Forestry Program: Lilly Lombard

Overview of urban forestry program. This presentation is a model of what to bring back to Commission if you are doing individual work. Seven years ago there was no urban forestry program. The canopy was shrinking. Trees were planted on Orchard Street. Last Elm trees were being cared for. In 2020 there is now a vibrant tree program. Northampton achieved an award. A feature was written on us. Harnessing citizen engagement was important. She showed then and now pictures. The tree warden is Rich Parasiliti. He was tree warden of year in 2019. The department is well resourced. There is a 7 person Tree Commission, which meets twice a month. Chair and Warden report at the beginning of every meeting. Mission is to advise and assist... Northampton has not tracked what the tree canopy has done over the years. 64% of city has canopy, mostly in the western part of city. 40% covered by tree canopy downtown is the goal. A tree inventory of possible public shade tree places was done—a 1,000 places where trees can be planted were identified. We have planted 1000 trees, but trees are coming down all the time. The My Tree Keeper Database is available for all of the city. A resident tree expert is Bob Leverett. Lori Sanders is another tree champion. Replacement value of a champion tree is priceless. We are creating a 5-10 year planning plan. We have set priorities. We have identified specific plans for each street. We have a 5-year plan. Includes engagement with the community. There are partnerships. Smith College: botanical labeling for 13 trees. Broadbrook: chestnut trees planted. Great tree bicycle tour included 150 people. The tour showcased 13 specimen trees. We have priorities for our current work. Data from around the world is used. We have learned that engaging with planning processes at the earliest stages is important. We have learned from other communities and we share our knowledge. Gas leaks are a significant problem, especially for trees. The Worcester study after addressing the beetle problem is illuminating. Policy opportunities. 40% is the threshold. Carbon storage by trees is significant. We can learn from Cambridge about street redesign. Thanks to Lilly for the presentation. Question: relationship of solar panels to urban forest? Shade trees reduce to earlier in the day peak loads of air conditioning. Has the end use of trees that come down been addressed? Hard to get straight boards out of shade trees. This is a great question for Rich.

Carbon sequestration, storage and reforestation at the former Pine Grove Golf Course:

When can we be carbon neutral? We are buying the old Pine Grove Golf Course. We have 105 acres coming to the city. Twenty-five of those acres now forested. Five to ten acres will be used for farmland. The remainder will be replanted. We know what we are doing with this parcel. We have \$300,000 for restoring the site. New trees are great for grazing deer. What to do? We bought a pine barren with poor soil. Now there is a debate about how to manage it. Question: installing PV panels vs tree planting. Has

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this been explored? We thought about that, but the land did not make an option possible. Question: food producing trees? Is there a value for people who can harvest, e.g., nuts? Question: about tillage which releases CO2 into the atmosphere. Orchards produce but are not tilled.

Action Items:

- ☐ **Chris:** Doodle Poll of new 2-hr meeting times
- ☐ **Wayne:** Update CRRP Consensus Building/Decision Points

Adjournment: Ashley Muspratt moved and Gordon Meadows seconded. Unanimous approval to adjourn.

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Climate Resilience and Regeneration Plan process: Outline and Decision Points (WF1-13-2020)		
1. Consultant	Public process, front line community outreach, draft (completed)	
2. Energy and Sustainability	Recommendations on refining the plan (currently underway)	
3. Planning & Sustainability staff	Revise plan- highlight remaining decision points	
4. Planning Board public hearing	Energy and Sustainability Commission invited	
5. Planning & Sustainability staff	Revise plan	
6. Energy and Sustainability	Endorse and make final recommendations	
7. Planning Board	Adopt, with whatever amendments	
8. City Council	Endorse	
9. Energy and Sustainability and others	Work plans and detailed group work to expand plan details	
9. Resilience & Hazard Mitigation Plan	Merge Municipal Vulnerability and Hazard Mitigation plans for FEMA and MVP funding eligibility	
9. Consolidated Plan	Reflect lessons in CDBG planning	
10. Sustainable Northampton Plan update	Reflect lessons in revised Sustainable Northampton Comprehensive Plan	
Vision		
Regeneration and mitigation: <i>We want to eliminate Northampton’s community-wide (city and community) contribution to global warming, with special attention to front-line communities.</i>	Carbon neutral Regenerate ecological systems absorb GHG Create a sustainable and regenerative community Thrive, provide co-benefits (e.g., economic development, quality of life, placemaking), and change behavior Equitable city- especially for front line communities	
Resilience and adaptation: <i>We want a Northampton where we all, thrive, even with climate change.</i>	Adapt to acute climate events (e.g. storms) and to chronic climate change (e.g., disease vectors) Thrive and provide co-benefits Equitable city- especially for front line communities	
Accountable	Evaluate and report on progress towards targets	
Pathways to Action: Regeneration and Mitigation		Scope*
Electric and energy production, supply, and storage	Renewable sources and shifting of the timing of peak loads (load shaping) Utility cooperation, Community Aggregation	Scope 2
Building space and water thermal loads -residential, commercial, institutional	Energy conservation (thermal, lighting, etc.) and smaller square footage per use Building electrification	Scope 1A, 1B
Mobility and transportation	Trip avoidance- land use Single-occupancy vehicle alternatives: transit, bike, walk Mobility electrification	Scope 1A, 1B
Land use	Equitable Impervious per person/unit Walk and bikability	Scope 1B
Process and operations energy loads -industrial, sewage, water, other processes	Electrification Efficiency improvements Conservation	Scope 1A, 1B
Fugitive emissions -natural gas leaks, heating systems	Identification and repair Fuel switching	Scope 1B, 2, 3
Carbon sequestration and storage	Preservation and expansion of trees, forests, soil, and wetlands carbon storage Offsets for remaining carbon use	Scopes 1A, 1B, 2, 3
Consumption and waste -food and other imports -solid waste, sludge, wastewater treatment	Reduce consumption and lower carbon imports Waste to resources (circular economy) and Zero Waste Food waste	Scopes 1A, 1B, 3
Local agriculture and food -livestock, crops, soil loss	Local agriculture carbon use and sequestration	Scope 1A, 1B
Municipal facilities and operations	Cross-cutting with all of the above pathways	Scope 1A, 2, 3
Pathways to Action: Resilience and Adaptation		
Invasive species control	Reduced soil erosion, stable ecosystems	
Trees and landscape	Forests, street trees, impervious per person, heat island	
Stormwater	Northampton Designs with Nature	
Riverine flooding	Northampton Designs with Nature and infrastructure	
Disease vectors	Natural and human-modified environment	
Heat and cooling	Shelters and homes	
Energy interruptions	Microgrids, district heating, geothermal utility, infrastructure, islanding	
Mobility and transportation	Lower impervious and impact per mile traveled	
Food and agriculture	Food supply, no till agriculture, permaculture (e.g., tree nuts)	
Cross-cutting, multiple pathways, substantive actions (examples, not complete)		
High Impact Practices (HIPs)		
State & City statutory & regulatory systems	Lobbying state and direct city ation	
Government operations		
Community choice aggregation		
Carbon fees	Directly or indirectly	
Financing	Cross-cutting with all of the above pathways (e.g., CCA, PACE, TIF, green bonds, micro bonds, CIP, MUNI)	
Behavior, motivation, education	Social milieu and cultural norms, crosscutting all of the above pathways	
City implementation process (with responsible party working in consultation with relevant boards & staff)		
Integrate in all department missions	E.g., affordable housing, education (Executive)	
Carbon budget for each department	Carbon reduction plan or internal carbon tax (Executive)	
City capital improvements & financing	GHG analysis for all CIP requests (Executive)	
Municipal Buildings	Conservation and electrification (Central Services)	
Municipal Facilities, Processes, Renewables	Conservation and electrification (Central Services, DPW, other departments)	
Land Use Regulatory and Plans	Zoning, subdivisions, comprehensive plan (Planning Board, Planning & Sustainability, City Council)	
Energy Stretch Code	Energy stretch code, as allowed (Energy and Sustainability, Energy Officer, City Council)	
City supported affordable housing	Conservation and electrification (Planning & Sustainability)	
Mobility	Alternatives to single-occupancy vehicles (Planning & Sustainability, DPW)	
Energy transformation	Community choice aggregation (Energy Officer, Planning & Sustainability, Executive)	
Consumption and Waste	Reduce excessive consumption and waste (Energy and Sustainability, DPW)	
Carbon sequestration & storage	Street trees (DPW and Tree Commission), Greenways (Planning & Sustainability), Water supply lands (DPW)	
Scope 1A and 1B	Scope 2*	Scope 3*
GHG emissions from sources within Northampton (1A=City operations, 1B=community demand)	GHG emissions from grid supplied to Northampton	GHG outside City resulting from local decisions